ACT UP PRESS RELEASE
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ACT UP/NY CONTINUES ITS FIGHT

(Yokohama, Japan): ACT UP/NY is a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and dedicated to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. On the occassion of the tenth International AIDS Conference in Yokohama, ACT UP/NY is stronger than ever in its call to the world community to wake up to the expanding nature of the pandemic and the world's wholly inadequate response.

The following are a sampling of the priority issues of concern to various Committees and Working Groups within ACT UP/NY. We call on everyone in attendance at the conference to take them seriously and begin effective, immediate action to respond to them.

I. AIDS CURE PROJECT(ACP):

-ACT UP's proposal for an intense, focused research effort to find a cure was introduced into the US Congress as HR 4370 in May of this year. The ACP will bring together a team of researchers to study people with AIDS, not just a virus in a lab. Their mandate will be to pursue a broad range of theories as to the course and treatment of AIDS.

-International researchers will be invited to participate on the primary team as well as through a worldwide, free-flowing communication network.

-Curatives developed by the ACP are to be made available globally to end the pandemic as part of its emergency mandate.

II. ALTERNATIVE AND HOLISTIC TREATMENT :

-Standards of care based upon questionable and inadequate basic science research and narrowly defined notions of treatment must be completely revised.

-Approaches which emphasize supporting and rebalancing the immune system through non-toxic means must be thoroughly researched, documented and made available immediately, worldwide. Financial and institutional support for such work must become a priority.

III. ACT UP AMERICAS:

- This working group insists on the immediate end to all HIV immigration bans or restrictions. Also of top priority is the networking with different PWA groups in the Americas to confront government officials and agencies over AIDS policies which endanger communities including the Latin American lesbian and gay community.

-The working group publishes a newsltetter, Boletin, which is disseminated throughout the Americas. It is published in Spanish and contains the latest AIDS information.

-ACT UP Americas was deeply involved in efforts which ended the detention of political refugees alleged to be HIV+, from Haiti, at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

IV. HEALTH CARE ACCESS:

- Every person affected with HIV/AIDS has the right to healthcare regardless of their ability to pay. It must be provided in a non-discriminatory way and individuals must have the right to choose the modalities of care.

V. HOUSING:

-Every person affected by HIV/AIDS has a right to adequate, medically appropriate housing in their communities. Governments have a responsibility to create conditions under which such housing can be provided. Doing so plays a vital role in preventing transmission of HIV.

VI. PEDIATRICS:

-The research agenda must focus on treatments for opportunistic infections for children with AIDS and stop using children's funds for perinatal research.

-There must be vitamin, mineral and nutrition guidelines, similar to those already developed for adults, to prolong the lives of children with AIDS.

VII. PRISONS:

- Prisons are epicenters of the AIDS epidemic where high-risk populations, overcrowding and poor medical care come together.

-ACT UP/NY continues its fight to demand that the AIDS community recognize that prisoners with AIDS are people with AIDS, deserving proper health care, including access to experimental treatments and trials, access to condoms and clean needles, education, full confidentiality rights and all mediacl care rights expected by all persons with AIDS.

VIII. TESTING AND DISCLOSURE:

-Testing is not treatment. Forced testing does not work. Confidentiality and privacy are paramount in a climate of dicrimination. Clinical trial 076 should not be interpreted as a liscense to forcibly test pregnant women. There is no long term data from this study.

IX. TREATMENT AND DATA:

-The committee publishes Treatment and Data Digest. Contact ACT UP/NY for subscription information.

X. WOMEN'S ISSUES:

-Research, particularly on vaccines, should never be carried out on women at high risk for HIV/AIDS without fully informed consent.

-Women must be included in all clinical trials fo treatments for HIV/AIDS and designs must be devised which account for the particular nature of women's bodies.

XI. YELL: YOUTH EDUCATION LIFE LINE:

-All young people must have access to complete, non-judgemental HIV/AIDS education. This information must address the full spectrum of sexual behavior in which young people engage, as well as drug use.

-Censorship, whether because of personal discomfort or political religious agendas, is intolerable.

-Information must be presented in media and language that are accessible to the young people at whom it is aimed.